

Attorney Docket No. 10559-360001
Application No.: 09/820,564
Amendment dated December 2, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated October 2, 2003

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of locally controlling call features comprising:
- transmitting signalling a request for a call feature from a first telephone over a phone line;
- processing the request in a processing element which is separate from and remote from said first telephone, by
- automatically setting said first telephone which signalled the request as a master controller which can send commands and all remaining phones as slaves which receive commands from the master; and
- transmitting instructions from the master to the slaves, in response to the request, to command extensions, over the phone line[s].
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, ~~further comprising~~ wherein said transmitting comprises the requests for a call feature, at a frequency not used for voice or voice-over-data communications.

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4. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising automatically resetting assignment of master and slave by the phone system after a predetermined time of inactivity.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 2, further comprising paging a slave phone from the master phone.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 2, further comprising conferencing a slave phone with the master phone.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising placing one of the phone lines on hold.

8. (Currently amended) A method of processing call features comprising:

submitting a request for a call feature from a first phone extension to a local controller which is separate from said first phone; and

automatically designating the first phone as a master which can send commands and any remaining phones as slaves which receive commands from the master; and

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transmitting instructions regarding the call features over the local phone lines at a frequency not used for voice or voice-over-data communications.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The method of Claim 8, further comprising transmitting a call waiting request to the master phone if any slave phone is activated.

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11. (Original) The method of Claim 10, further comprising conferencing a slave phone with the master phone in response to the call waiting request.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 9, further comprising placing the master phone on hold.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 9, further comprising paging a slave phone from the master phone.

14. (Currently amended) A local phone system comprising:
a controller which receives requests for call features from a plurality of phone extensions, wherein the controller

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processes the requests and transmits instructions to the phone extensions based on the requests and which automatically designates a last phone to make a request as a master phone, that can send requests to all other phones, and which other phones are designated as slave phones; and

a first transceiver which provides communications between the controller and the phone extensions over a phone line.

15. (Original) The local phone system of Claim 14, further comprising a second transceiver used for voice communications.

16. (Original) The local phone system of Claim 15, wherein the first transceiver operates at a different frequency than the second transceiver.

17. (Original) The local phone system of Claim 14, wherein the call features include call waiting.

18. (Original) The local phone system of Claim 14, wherein the call features include conference calling.

19. (Original) The local phone system of Claim 14, wherein the call features include paging.

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20. (Original) The local phone system of Claim 14, wherein the call features include call holding.

21. (Original) The local phone system of Claim 14, wherein the call features are accessed through the phone handsets.

22. (Original) The local phone system of Claim 14, further comprising a control center connected to at least one phone extension, wherein the control center provides a user interface to access the call features.
